

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A foundation for a construction with at least one pile-like device that is anchored in or on a ground and comprises

an elongate pile element, and

at least one reinforcement element that is constructed and disposed such that, between the reinforcement element and the pile element, a gap is formed, the relative arrangement of the pile element and reinforcement element being maintained during the whole service time of the foundation,

wherein said gap is at least partially filled with at least one free-flowing filling material,

and wherein the construction is located on top of the pile-like device and directly between the pile-like device and the construction, a junction piece is disposed which connects them to one another with the connection between the pile-like device and junction piece being adapted to transmit bending moments.

2. (Currently Amended) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pile element is constructed as an inner tube around which the reinforcement element is disposed and wherein the reinforcement element has a greater length than the pile

element.

3. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pile element is constructed as an inner tube and the reinforcement element is constructed as an outer tube, said inner tube being disposed in the outer tube such that the gap which substantially surrounds the inner tube is formed between the inner tube and the outer tube.

4. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foundation comprises at least one single pile-like device which stands substantially in an extension of a vertical axis of the construction.

5. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foundation comprises more than two pile-like devices.

6. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a proportion of the filling material comprises a bulk material which is not damaging to the environment.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in a region of the gap, the pile element and the reinforcement element have means for increasing transfer of shear between the elements and the filling material.

9. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 8, wherein, when the elements are constructed as tubes, means for increasing transfer of shear are disposed on an inner face of an outer tube and on an outer face of an inner tube.

10. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 8, wherein the means for increasing transfer of shear comprise annular accumulations of material applied to the pile element and reinforcement element tubes.

11. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means for increasing the transfer of shear comprise at least three fins aligned parallel to a longitudinal axis of the pile-like device and connected to one of the pile element or reinforcement element tubes.

12. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fins ensure centering of the inner and outer tubes.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the junction piece includes a screw flange for connection to the construction.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 17, wherein the junction piece is equipped with means for increasing the transfer of shear between the junction piece and the filling material.

19. (Previously Presented) The foundation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the construction is an offshore construction.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for introducing a pile-like device having a pile element into a ground as a foundation of a construction, comprising the following method steps:

- introducing the pile element into the ground,
- disposing over or in the pile-like device a junction piece , said junction piece serving to connect the pile-like device to the construction, wherein the construction is located on top of the pile-like device and wherein the connection between the pile-like device and junction piece is adapted to transmit bending moments,

- connecting the junction piece to the pile-like device,

wherein:

- before or after the introduction of the pile element into the ground, introducing a reinforcement element into the ground, the reinforcement element

being constructed and disposed relative to the pile element such that an increase in a strength of the pile-like device is achieved, and

- filling, at least partially, gaps between the junction piece and the pile-like device with a filling material
- maintaining the relative arrangement of the pile element and reinforcement element during the whole service time of the foundation.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in the claim 20, wherein the reinforcement element is constructed and disposed relative to the pile element such that the gap is produced therebetween, said gap being at least partially filled with at least one filling material in an additional step.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in the claim 21, wherein the additional step is carried out between an arrangement of the junction piece.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of the two elements is introduced into the ground by means of a ramming method and/or drilling method.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said method is used in an offshore construction and the pile-like device is introduced into a seabed.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of dismantling a foundation for a construction with at least one pile-like device that is anchored in or on a ground and comprises an elongate pile element, wherein the pile-like device also has at least one reinforcement element that is constructed and disposed such that, between the reinforcement element and the pile element, a gap is formed, and wherein said gap is at least partially filled with at least one free-flowing filling material wherein the pile element is constructed as an inner tube and the reinforcement element is constructed as an outer tube and wherein the relative arrangement of the pile element and reinforcement element is maintained during the whole service time of the foundation wherein, after removal of the supported construction, comprising the steps of:

- detaching the outer tube in a region of a level of a seabed,
- withdrawing the outer tube so that the filling material escapes downwards onto the seabed,
- detaching the inner tube in the region of the level of the seabed and then withdrawing the inner tube

wherein the construction is located on top of the pile-like device, and a junction piece between the pile-like device and the construction, the connection between the pile-like device and junction piece being adapted to transmit bending moments, is dismantled in an intermediate step performed between detaching the outer tube and withdrawing the outer tube.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The foundation of claim 1 wherein the junction piece extends into the gap between the reinforcement element and the pile element.

30. (New) The foundation of claim 1, wherein the connection between the pile-like device and junction piece is a concrete bond between the junction piece and pile element and the junction piece and reinforcement element.

31. (New) The method for introducing a pile-like device of claim 20, wherein the connection between the junction piece and the pile like device is a concrete bond between the junction piece and the pile element or the junction piece and reinforcement element.

32. (New) The method of dismantling of claim 26, wherein the connection between the pile-like device and junction piece is a concrete bond between the junction piece and pile element and the junction piece and reinforcement element